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the first time a longitudinal study of the government and policies of a single railway brotherhood is presented.

The monograph is divided into three parts. Part I includes a brief and rather empirical chapter on the complicated problem of trade union government, another on jurisdictional disputes with other organizations, and a chapter on federation, which records the unsuccessful efforts to maintain alliances between railway brotherhoods.

Part II gives an interesting discussion of trade regulations and their enforcement. Recently the wages of railway employees has become a matter of public importance because the railway companies have used the increase secured by railway unions as one of their arguments for higher transportation rates. Conductors' wages have increased 35 per cent since 1897. The tendency to establish uniform wages for the same work on all railway systems is indicated and the attitude of conductors and railway officials toward further increases is presented. The Order of Railway Conductors has been a party to various controversies successfully settled by mediation or arbitration under the federal law. The weakness of voluntary arbitration revealed in these and other disputes has stimulated discussion concerning the desirability of compulsory arbitration in industries charged with a public interest; but, as the author points out, the conductors oppose compulsory arbitration, which would destroy, they think, the organization through which they have achieved success.

In establishing insurance systems for relief of members, this organization has been a pioneer among American unions. Part III describes its experiences with mutual benefits. There has been a gradual evolution from crude and faulty methods to those which conform in some degree to scientific insurance principles, though the industrial and fraternal aims of the organization prevent the attainment of full scientific precision.

Quite a few topics have been omitted, but the ones discussed are probably the most important, and the information given is presented in a clear and logical manner.

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Die Berufsvereine. I. Geschichtliche Entwicklung der Berufsorganisationen der Arbeitnehmer und Arbeitgeber aller Länder. By W. KULEMAN. Second edition. Three volumes.

(Berlin: Leonhard Simion Nf. 1913. Pp. xxiv, 560; viii, 551; vii, 336. 30 M.)

In these three volumes the author has attempted the monumental task of writing the history of the trade union movement in all countries. Three previous volumes had already been devoted to their development in Germany. The following countries are here covered: England, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Russia, Finland, Servia, Bulgaria, Roumania, United States of America, Canada, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. As it was manifestly impossible for one man to become an authority on the subject in all the countries under consideration, the author secured the assistance of co-workers in each country. For the United States, H. Fehlinger of Munich and Schall of Stuttgart coöperated; the former was also adviser for Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

The work is an external history of trade unionism; "a collection of autobiographies of the organizations treated." No attempt is made to trace the development of thought or to describe internal organization. Since he confines himself to the external history of labor organizations the author is frequently led to lay undue emphasis upon individuals or sporadic movements which momentarily attract public attention, such as Debs, the Chicago anarchists, etc. He, also, influenced no doubt by German experience, attaches undue weight to the socialist movement and to the political labor movement, neither of which have had the influence upon trade union development in this country which is here attributed to them.

In his description of the trade union movement in the United States, to which we may confine ourselves, Mr. Kuleman devotes over one fifth of his hundred pages to the geography, form of government, and history of the country, some of which knowledge might have been taken for granted. The economic background, so necessary for an understanding of the various movements, is practically lacking; the few pages devoted to "industrial-social conditions" deal for the most part with political corruption. To supply this lack in all the countries would have swelled the work beyond the ability of one man to compass, but its absence nevertheless detracts from the value of the book. The information is drawn wholly, in the case of the United States, from written sources; all of those quoted are secondary, and 19 out of 32 are

German publications. Consequently the work is not based on a personal first-hand acquaintance with either the conditions under which the movement has proceeded or with the leaders. It is a closet study.

The wonder is that under these circumstances so few mistakes have crept into the narrative. Statements of fact are in general correct; it is chiefly in matters of emphasis and selection of facts that one would differ from the author. The book is quite objective and constitutes a sort of encyclopedia of the external history of trade unionism. It will doubtless be useful for those who wish to inform themselves briefly as to what has been done in other countries.

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NEW BOOKS

BAUER, S. *Das Existenzminimum in Recht und Wirtschaft*. (Vienna: Manz'sche Buchh. 1914. Pp. 24.)

BROWN, R. G. *The minimum wage. With particular reference to the legislative minimum wage under the Minnesota statute of 1913*. (Minneapolis: Review Pub. Co. 1914. Pp. xv, 98. \$1.)

Essentially, this is a brief prepared for the purpose of demonstrating the unconstitutionality of the Minnesota minimum wage law. The author founds his case in part on alleged special defects of the Minnesota law, in part on considerations that would apply to any compulsory minimum wage law. In particular, the author holds that the power to enact a minimum wage law is not included within the police powers of a state legislature, and cites with approval a dictum of the supreme court of Indiana (*Street v. Varney Electrical Co.*, 160 Ind. 338) to the effect that "legislation which interferes with the operation of natural and economic laws defeats its own object, and furnishes to those whom it professes to favor few of the advantages expected from its provisions."

More interesting to the economist is the author's discussion of the comparative merits of the different minimum wage laws that have been enacted in this country. He is least opposed to the Massachusetts law, because in his judgment this act "recognized the fact that the principal efficacy of legislation is the promotion of coöperation in the effort to raise wages, and that a drastic compulsory act would result, not only in consternation among employers, but also in discrimination and even disaster to business. . . ." (p. 36).

Any one who is sufficiently interested in the minimum wage to read this book should not fail to examine the appendix to the briefs filed on behalf of respondents in the case of *Settler v. Industrial Welfare Commission of the State of Oregon*, prepared by Louis D.